

Fiscal TOPICS

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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program

Purpose

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program as delegated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). State and federal law requires facilities that discharge pollutants into surface water or operate a wastewater disposal facility to obtain a state operating permit or NPDES permit.

Pollutant sources are categorized as point or nonpoint sources. A point source discharge is typically from a wastewater treatment plant, industrial company, or urban runoff. Nonpoint source discharges are typically from agricultural activities and nonpoint discharges are not subject to NPDES permitting. An NPDES permit limits the amount of pollutants that can be discharged into the surface water. The two categories of permits are individual or general. An individual permit is written specifically for a facility, where a general permit covers various facilities. There are seven types of general permits, which include:

- General Permit No. 1, Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity.
- General Permit No. 2, Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity for Construction Activities.
- General Permit No. 3, Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity from Asphalt Plants, Concrete Batch Plants, Rock Crushing Plants, and Construction Sand and Gravel Facilities.
- General Permit No. 4, Discharge from On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems.
- General Permit No. 5, Discharge from Mining and Processing Facilities.
- General Permit No. 6, Discharge Associated with Well Construction Activities.
- General Permit No. 7, Pesticide General Permit (PGP) for Point Source Discharges to Waters of the United States from the Application of Pesticides.

Funding

The NPDES Fund consists of revenue from fees paid for the issuance of individual permits and fees paid for General Permits No. 1, 2, 3, and 5. The DNR receives an annual \$700,000 appropriation from the NPDES Fund to administer the NPDES Permit Program.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [455B.197](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [567—64](#)

More Information

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – NPDES Wastewater Permitting:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

LSA Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (515-281-6767) deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov